

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04046

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

L. I SPENT THE EVENING OF MARCH 10 WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WHO SENT YOU HIS BEST REGARDS. IN OUR FRANK TWO-HOUR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WE WENT OVER A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS MANY OF WHICH WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MORE EXTENSIVE REPORTING.

2. ON EGYPT, THE CHANCELLOR OUTLINED HIS MANY DIFFICULTIES AND MANY DEMANDS ON GERMAN RESOURCES, SOUGHT DETAILS ON THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC SITUATION, WHICH I SUPPLIED, AND THEN REQUESTED A CLEAR WRITTEN DELINEATION OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH WE WOULD BE PLACING ON SADAT AS A BASIS FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THE CHANCELLOR WAS ANXIOUS TO KNOW MORE PRECISELY WHAT CONDITIONS WE WERE CONSIDERING PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT ON MARCH 29 IN ORDER THAT HE COULD MAINTAIN THE SAME POSITION. HE STRESSED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS TRIED TO BE HELPFUL WITH EGYPT AND INSPITE OF ALL HIS PROBLEMS HE WOULD CERTAINLY LOOK AT THE PROBLEM WITH AN OPEN MIND, RECOGNIZING THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING SADAT'S POSITION.

3. ON ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA SCHMIDT WAS MORE FORTHCOMING
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AND STRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY

POSSIBLE. HE CITED THE UNFORTHCOMING ATTITUDE OF THE GERMAN CENTRAL BANK IN DEALING WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT INDICATED HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ONGOING NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE DEVELOPING WORLD CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR DESIRE TO DEVELOP CONCRETE SOLUTIONS, EVEN THOUGH THEY CANNOT BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT. THERE WAS THE IMPLICATION OF CONCERN THAT THE US WAS ONLY PAYING LIP SERVICE TO THE DIALOGUE AND DID NOT INTEND TO MOVE FORWARD IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. WE AGREED THAT AN INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO MOVE FORWARD SHOULD BE GENERATED IN THE NEXT TWO COMMISSION MEETINGS IN MARCH AND APRIL TO AVOID A MAJOR POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AT UNCTAD IN MAY.

5. THE CHANCELLOR WAS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACTION ON PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS ON SPECIAL STEEL ALLOYS, SINCE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS COULD BRING ABOUT A SURGE OF RETALIATION IN EUROPE. HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO REFER TO THE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN RAMBOUILLET AND THOUGHT THAT RESTRICTIVE ACTION ON IMPORTS BY THE US WOULD VIOLATE THE SPIRIT ACHIEVED AT THAT MEETING. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE WRITING THE PRESIDENT ON THE SUBJECT.

6. THE CHANCELLOR OPENED AND CLOSED OUR CONVERSATION WITH REFERENCE TO CERTAIN INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE SHIFTS OF APPROACH TO OTHER SUPERPOWERS. HE ASKED ME TO REPORT VERBALLY ON THIS MATTER WHICH I WILL DO ON MY RETURN.
HILLENBRAND

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